



July 17, 2015

**SENT VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL**

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
exsec@ios.doi.gov

David Murillo, Regional Director  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
dmurillo@usbr.gov

John Laird, Secretary  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Kinberly.goncalves@resources.ca.gov

Mark W. Cowin, Director,  
California Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836, Room 1115-1  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001  
Mark.cowin@water.ca.gov

BDCPComments@icfi.com

**RE: Request for 75-day Extension of Comment Deadline for BDCP/California  
Water Fix RDEIR/SDEIS Comments to November 16, 2015**

Dear Secretary Jewell, Regional Director Murillo, Secretary Laird, Director Cowin and  
Federal and California Agencies, Officers, and Staff Members Carrying out the  
BDCP/California Water Fix:

This letter is being submitted on behalf of the Friends of Stone Lakes National  
Wildlife Refuge ("the Friends", formerly known as the Stone Lakes National Wildlife  
Refuge Association). The Friends is a volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to the  
conservation, protection, enhancement and promotion of the Stone Lakes National  
Wildlife Refuge ("Stone Lakes NWR" or "Refuge"). The comments in this letter are solely

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Friends of Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, 1624 Hood Franklin Road, Elk Grove, CA 95757

[www.friendsofstonelakes.org](http://www.friendsofstonelakes.org)  
(916) 775-4418

those of the Friends and are independent of Stone Lakes NWR staff and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS").

Stone Lakes NWR is one of the largest complexes of wetlands, lakes and riparian areas remaining in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and provides critical habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds of international concern as well as a number of endangered plant and animal species. The Refuge and surrounding foraging acreage is "ground zero" for the impacts of the water conveyance facilities proposed as the "California Water Fix." Because of this fact, the Friends have been actively engaged in the BDCP process since submitting Scoping comments in May of 2008.

Because of the Friends' long-standing interest in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan ("BDCP"), it is extremely concerned about the inordinately short review period for the recently released Partially Recirculated Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS ("RDEIR/SDEIS") for the newly rechristened Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California Water Fix. A 45 day review period is needlessly short and fails to give the Friends, other interested parties, and – not the least – interested individual members of the public adequate time to read, understand, research and comment upon the extraordinary volume of new technical and scientific material.

Accordingly, the Friends hereby respectfully request an extension of at least 75 days for submitting public comments on the BDCP/California Water Fix RDEIR/SDEIS to the BDCP Draft EIR/EIS. This request is to extend the deadline for public comment on those documents from August 31, 2015, to November 16, 2015. This is a request for a 120 day period for public comment in place of the 45 day period currently being provided.

There are a multitude of good practical, legal and policy reasons for the requested extension. The Friends are aware of a similar written request submitted by Friends of the River, Restore the Delta, the California Water Impact Network, the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, and the Environmental Water Caucus (among others) on July 16, 2015, and rather than repeating all of the justifications and rationale for an extension as articulated by these organizations, the Friends wishes to put on record its concurrence with the statements and analysis as stated therein, and adopts them by reference as part of this letter.

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Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. We request the courtesy of a prompt written response to this request.

Sincerely,



Dale Claypoole

President, Friends of Stone Lakes  
National Wildlife Refuge

cc (sent via email):

Maria Rea, Assistant Regional Administrator  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
[maria.rea@noaa.gov](mailto:maria.rea@noaa.gov)

Michael Tucker, Fishery Biologist  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
[Michael.Tucker@noaa.gov](mailto:Michael.Tucker@noaa.gov)

Larry Rabin, Acting, Field Supervisor, S.F. Bay-Delta  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
[larry\\_rabin@fws.gov](mailto:larry_rabin@fws.gov)

Lori Rinek  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
[lori\\_rinek@fws.gov](mailto:lori_rinek@fws.gov)

Mary Lee Knecht, Program Manager  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
[mknecht@usbr.gov](mailto:mknecht@usbr.gov)

Patty Idloff  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
[pidlof@usbr.gov](mailto:pidlof@usbr.gov)

Deanna Harwood  
NOAA Office of General Counsel  
[deanna.harwood@noaa.gov](mailto:deanna.harwood@noaa.gov)

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Kaylee Allen  
Department of Interior Solicitor's Office  
[kaylee.allen@sol.doi.gov](mailto:kaylee.allen@sol.doi.gov)

Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator  
U.S. EPA, Region IX  
[blumenfeld.jared@epa.gov](mailto:blumenfeld.jared@epa.gov)

Tom Hagler  
U.S. EPA General Counsel Office  
[hagler.tom@epa.gov](mailto:hagler.tom@epa.gov)

Tim Vendlinski, Bay Delta Program Manager, Water Division  
U.S. EPA, Region IX  
[vendlinski.tim@epa.gov](mailto:vendlinski.tim@epa.gov)

Stephanie Skophammer, Program Manager  
U.S. EPA, Region IX  
[skophammer.stephanie@epa.gov](mailto:skophammer.stephanie@epa.gov)

Erin Foresman, Bay Delta Coordinator  
U.S. EPA, Sacramento, CA  
[Foresman.Erin@epa.gov](mailto:Foresman.Erin@epa.gov)

Lisa Clay, Assistant District Counsel  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
[Lisa.clay@usace.army.mil](mailto:Lisa.clay@usace.army.mil)

Michael Nepstad  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
[Michael.G.Nepstad@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.G.Nepstad@usace.army.mil)

Diane Riddle, Environmental Program Manager  
State Water Resources Control Board  
[diane.riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:diane.riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)

Bart McDermott, Refuge Manager  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
[Bart\\_mcdermott@fws.gov](mailto:Bart_mcdermott@fws.gov)